

## SA.2 *Number of Final Assessment Decisions*

### Section 1 - Program Activity Information

1.1 Program Activity: The Number of Final Assessment Decisions (FADs).

1.2 Program Activity Category: GPRA Annual Performance Goal

1.3 Program Area: Site Assessment

1.4 EPA Sponsor:

Subject Matter Expert	Subject Area	Phone #
Randy Hippen	Site Assessment	(703) 603-8829

### Section 2 - Problem/Decision Objective

2.1 Problem: The federal Superfund Program needs to track progress of completing site assessment work at sites entered into CERCLIS. Superfund final assessment decisions (FADs) are used as an indicator to measure progress towards completing this work. A FAD indicates no further site assessment work is necessary under the federal Superfund Program based on available information.

2.2 Stakeholder(s): Internal stakeholders include EPA Headquarter and regional officials responsible for managing the progress of sites through the Superfund site assessment process, and EPA officials responsible for reporting Superfund accomplishments under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). External stakeholders include the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Congress, and the public for decision-making purposes.

2.3 Decision-maker(s): Regions are responsible for maintaining FAD designations in WasteLAN by checking the FAD box in WasteLAN as appropriate, and accepting or editing the date that the WasteLAN application uses to populate the Final Assessment Decision Date field. The trigger for the automatic populating of the Final Assessment Decision Date field is the checkbox for Final Assessment Decision and the activation of this checkbox will insert the current date into the Final Assessment Decision Date field. The following access roles may set the FAD designation checkbox: Administrative Support/Data Entry, Aquatic Sediments Manager, Brownfields Coordinator, Civil Investigator, Community Involvement Coordinator, Cost Recovery Specialist/Data Entry, Enforcement Specialist, Finance Officer, HQ Manager, HQ Enforcement Manager, IMC/IMC Budget Staff Coordinator, ORC Data Entry Staff, OSC, Regional Manager, PRP Search Staff, Regional Manager, Reviewer, RPM, Risk Assessor, SAM, Site Manager, and Superuser.

2.4 Decision: Use the number of Final Assessment Decisions to monitor progress toward achieving goals set forth in the GPRA. A final assessment decision is made at the conclusion of Superfund site assessment work at a site. Regions may assign a FAD designation to sites going through the remedial assessment process if any of the following conditions are met and no further Superfund site assessment work is anticipated:

- The site has been proposed to or placed on the National Priorities List (NPL);
- The site has been removed from proposal to the NPL and no further assessment is needed;
- The decision made at the last completed assessment at the site is either:
  - No further remedial action planned (NFRAP);
  - Referred to Removal-NFRAP

- Deferred to RCRA or NRC; or
  - Addressed as part of an NPL or non-NPL site;
- d) The site is being remediated under a formal state deferral agreement;
- e) The site is being remediated as a Superfund Alternative Site;
- f) The site has been cleaned up or is making progress towards cleanup as supported by documentation (worksharing agreements, site-specific progress reports, AOCs, remedial action plans, VCP/other MOAs, etc.) between the non-EPA party and EPA stating that the site has been or is being cleaned up or addressed according to appropriate cleanup standards;
- g) The site has been properly archived from the active CERCLIS site inventory.

Regions must delete the FADs designation should conditions change such that the site no longer meets any of the above conditions. **When new information is received on a site with a FAD designation, Regions should evaluate the new information and determine whether further assessment work is required. The FAD designation may remain at the site while the information is being evaluated.**

### Section 3 - Information Needs

Name	Source	System	Table/Column
Site	WasteLAN	WasteLAN	SITE.site_id
Site EPA ID	WasteLAN	WasteLAN	SITE.site_epa_id is NOT null
NPL status		WasteLAN	SITE.rnpl_status_code <> 'O' and is NOT null
FAD Status Decision	Determination <b>generally</b> made by SAMs, but could be made by other users with appropriate access role	WasteLAN	FAD_STATUS_HISTORY.fsh_decision = 'Y' for MAX(fsh_seq_id) for site
FAD Decision Date	Determination <b>generally</b> made by SAMs, but could be made by other users with appropriate access role	WasteLAN	FAD_STATUS_HISTORY.fsh_date is NOT null
Historical FADs by Region	WasteLAN	WasteLAN	SCAP15_HIST_FAD_BY_REG.region_code, shfad_fy, shfad_nmbr

### Section 4 - Scope/Universe

This information product addresses all sites that have a final assessment decision. To qualify as having a final assessment decision at a site, the **FAD box is checked in WasteLAN and the FAD date field is populated.**

## Section 5 - Data Quality Requirements

A FAD designation is made in WasteLAN by selecting “Final Assessment Decision” check box on the Site Description/Status/Operable Units screen. WasteLAN automatically populates the related “Final Assessment Decision Date” field with the current date. Regions can accept or edit this date.

The following cases are those for which special attention should be paid to update a site’s Final Assessment Decision (FAD) status:

- a) Child Site: For a site that has become a child site (with either an NPL parent or Non-NPL parent) check to make certain that the child’s FAD box is checked and that the proper FAD status date is entered;
- b) Site becomes Proposed, Final or Deleted from the NPL: Check the site to see that its FAD box is checked and its FAD Date is correctly set;
- c) Site is newly added to CERCLIS as a Non-NPL site and needs assessment work: Check the site to see that it’s FAD box is not checked.;
- d) Site has become an Archived Site: All Archived sites that have had site assessment work completed at them should have the FAD box checked and a valid FAD date entered.

5.1 Completeness: The Final Assessment Decision should be made following completion of Superfund site assessment work. The SCAP 15 GPR report provides information on the total FADs to date, sites added as FADs since the end of the previous year, sites dropped as FADs since the previous year, and the net increase in FADs since the previous year. Because FAD status may change from Yes to No, resulting in the potential net decrease of FADs in a Fiscal Year, WasteLAN tracks changes to the FAD status in the FAD Status History Table.

All sites for which remedial assessment work has been completed and no further site assessment work is anticipated should be marked as having a Final Assessment Decision.

5.2 Accuracy: WasteLAN limits access to the FAD check box as follows. The following security is provided for user roles in WasteLAN for access the Site Description/Operable Units Screen and edit FADs.  
Read Access - Construction Completion Manager, Contracts Management, Cost Recovery Coordinator, HQ/Budget SCAP Coordinator, HQ Staff, RCRA Deferral Manager, Read Only, Regional Attorney; Write Access – Brownfields Coordinator, SAM,  
Delete Access– Administrative Support/Data Entry, Aquatic Sediments Manager, Civil Investigator PRP Search Staff, Community Involvement Coordinator, Cost Recovery Specialist/Data Entry, Enforcement Specialist, Finance Officer, HQ Manager, HQ Enforcement Manager, IMC/IMC Budget Staff Coordinator, ORC Data Entry Staff, OSC, Regional Manager, Regional Manager Reviewer, RPM, Risk Assessor, Site Manager, Superuser

Most accurate - Data is reported in the official decision source document. There is objective evidence (documentation that a third party can examine and arrive at the same conclusion) to support the accomplishment of this measure.

5.3 Timeliness: The FADs designation should be updated when site conditions change dictating that the FAD is applicable or no longer applicable. Note special circumstances above. It is good management practice to enter FAD data as soon as practicable after the FAD occurs. However, data must be entered into WasteLAN within five business days following the quarter in which the FAD is made.

5.4 Consistency: The WasteLAN Quick Reference Guide (QRG) on Reporting Final Assessment Decision Status provides basic information on Final Assessment Decisions. This document is national guidance for

data entry for this measure.

Most Consistent - National Guidance and definitions have been distributed.

FADs may change for a site over time. As a result, there is the potential for the measure to show a net decrease of FADs in a fiscal year. **Superfund eFacts** provides charts that display Current Year FADs, as well as **New and** Dropped FAD sites to assist in tracking FAD changes. WasteLAN also tracks this information.

## Section 6 - Information Collection and Reporting

6.1 Source for the information (e.g., person, source documentation)

6.2 User interface : A FAD **designation** is **made** in WasteLAN by selecting “**Final** Assessment Decision” **check box** on the Site **Description/Status/Operable** Units screen. WasteLAN **automatically** populates the related “Final Assessment Decision Date” field with the current date. Regions can accept or edit this date.

6.3 System transfers: FAD status is snapshot from regions to Headquarters. The information is also transferred from CERCLIS to Efacts

6.4 Internal outputs: SCAP 15 Report

6.5 Audit Reports:

6.6 External outputs: The Number of Final Assessment Decisions are included in the annual report to Congress and are also summarized on SCAP charts in **eFacts**.

6.7 Guidance Documentation:

- ▶ ☐ Superfund Program Implementation Manual (SPIM) – OSWER Directive 9200.3-14-1G-Q
- ▶ ☐ Reporting Final Assessment Decision Status QRG, **November 2004**